

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 remain in this application. Claims 1-6 and 16 have been withdrawn. Claim 17 has been added.

In the Office action mailed April 7, 2008 the Examiner required restriction between Claims 7-15 (Group I), drawn to a mask, Claims 1-6 (Group II) drawn to a method of using a mask and Claim 16 (Group III) drawn to a semiconductor component.

Responsive thereto, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group I, without traverse and without prejudice to, inter alia, Applicant's right to pursue the withdrawn claims, as well as product-by-process and/or generic claims, in a divisional application.

By means of the present amendment, Claims 1-16 have been amended to correct certain informalities noted upon review and to better conform to U.S. practice, such as changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Further amendments include changing "A" to --The-- at the beginning of the dependent claims. Claims 1-16 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant

respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of  
Equivalents.

Claim 17 is added to clarify Applicant's invention.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position  
or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically  
addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any  
rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would  
appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks.  
However, Applicant reserves the right to submit further  
arguments in support of the above stated position, should  
that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of  
the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted  
that the present application is in condition for  
consideration by the Examiner. A Notice of Allowance is  
earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested  
to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite  
allowance.

Appl. No. 10/528,946  
Resp. dated May 5, 2008  
Reply to Office action of Apr. 7, 2008

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any  
overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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